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Chaplains'
SPIRITUAL MINISTRY
for
All Faiths
in
WAR EMERGENCY

Chaplain Melvin S. Sands

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EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

The following suggestions have been worked out as a method of procedure for all chaplains to follow when serving a seriously wounded or dying man belonging to a religious faith other than their own. We naturally concede that every effort will be made to provide the service of the soldier's faith. But many times that will be impossible. Under such circumstances the suggestions given herein may be beneficial.

The "psychology of approach" to wounded men is a subject every chaplain should study most thoroughly long before he reaches the battle field. All religious ministrations **MUST** be made with one thought in mind, namely, to bring encouragement, cheer and confidence and to remove all fear, leaving the man courageous and unafraid. For some a specific religious ministry will be helpful and inspiring. To others it may be depressing. The man may become convinced that his condition is worse than he thought, otherwise the chaplain would not have stopped to pray for him. Such a state of mind can be very detrimental. Even in the most serious cases, cheer and confidence must be the governing factors. Men will usually let the chaplain know if he desires special religious ministrations. The attitude of sincere, kindly, understanding, naturalness is the best approach.

The chaplain must always use his own judgement as to the time spent with a man. Many factors enter into consideration. Needs of other wounded men, amount of exposure to danger, conditions of the man,

etc. The exigencies of the situations should always be the governing factor. Spend as much time as possible without depriving others of your service.

Chaplains, upon finding a serious wounded case should inquire at once as to the religious faith of the man concerned. Upon learning which faith the man desires, he should proceed along the lines here suggested for men of a faith other than his own.

* * *

FOR CATHOLIC BOY

Procedure by a non-Catholic chaplain when finding a Catholic man. Learn the man's first name if possible and say, "(John), I am not a Priest, but I have talked with Father (Kelly) and he asked me to say that since he cannot possibly be here I should either read for you or have you say with me, or if you can remember it all to say it for yourself, this prayer:

"The Act of Contrition"

'Oh my God I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell, but most of all because they have offended Thee, my God, Who art all good, and worthy of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.'

"Father (Kelly) said for me to assure you that if you really and truly mean this prayer that you have just prayed, that you are assured Absolution from all your sins and of Eternal and Everlasting Life. He

asked me to give you this Rosary which he has blessed for you to keep and to assure you that he grants you his blessing."

* * *

FOR PROTESTANT BOY

Procedure for a Catholic or Rabbi Chaplain to follow with a Protestant man. First learn the man's name if possible and say, "(James), I am a (Catholic), (Rabbi) Chaplain, but Chaplain (Brown) the Protestant Chaplain asked me to read to you these prayers, and scriptures as he would of if he were here. Would you like to repeat after me (or have me read to you) these prayers?

"Lord Jesus, I do heartily confess unto Thee all my sins. And I truly repent of all the evil in my life, and I promise to serve Thee with my whole heart. I give my life to Thee and pray that Thou wilt forgive all my sins and purify my soul from all evil. Grant me Thy Salvation because I believe in Thee and Thy Holy promise that 'God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' Lord Jesus, I believe. Amen."

Chaplain (Brown) asked me to assure you if you have sincerely and truly prayed this prayer and claimed the sacred Promise that 'Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life,' that you are assured of full Salvation and Life Eternal."

FOR HEBREW BOY

Procedure for Catholic or Protestant to follow with a man of the Jewish faith. First learn the man's name if possible and say, "(Joseph), I am not a Rabbi, but I have talked with Rabbi (Leibert), and he asked me to pray this prayer for you (repeat this prayer with me) or (repeat after me):

"Father of Mercies—My life and my death are in Thy hands, Thou art One, Eternal, and All-powerful. Heal me—and I shall be healed. But if in Thy wisdom, and because of my sins, Thou hast differently Decreed concerning me, I will humbly submit to Thy will praying that my pain and my suffering at this time be acceptable in Thy sight as the atonement for all my errors.

Into Thy hands I commit my spirit. Thou art with me, I shall not fear. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.

Sh'ma Yis-ro-ayl A-Do-noy E-lo-hay-nu A-do-noy e-chod.

Praised be His name whose glorious kingdom is forever and ever.

Bo-ruch shaym k'vod mal-chu-so 'l-o-lom vo-ed.

The Lord He is God.

A-do-noy who Haw-el-o-heem."

* * *

HOSPITAL SERVICE PRAYERS

For the Sick Person to Say:

O gracious God, from Whom cometh every blessing, I thank Thee that Thou hast let Thy mercies come upon me for so long a while. In my hour of pain I remember the countless days of health that Thou hast

given me, and I return to Thee my heartfelt thanks for them. Although I have done much evil in Thy sight, yet Thou hast been gracious to me and hast forgiven me abundantly. If it shall seem good to Thee, grant that my health and strength may be restored to me and make me ever grateful for all Thy blessings. Amen.

* * *

O Lord God, I bless and praise Thee for Thine unspeakable mercy in restoring me again to health. In the time of sickness Thou hast indeed been gracious to me. Thy chastening hand was upon me, but it was a hand of love. Grant, O Lord, that this visitation may never be forgotten. May my future life be marked by more devotion, more humility, more love, more earnestness of heart and life. Deepen Thy work in my soul. Sanctify me wholly, so that I may be more entirely Thine than I have ever been before, and comfort me always with Thine indwelling Presence, that I may live henceforth only to Thy glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* * *

Chaplain; In behalf of the Sick:

Help us, God of our life, to bear our pain as Thy beloved Son bore His trials and passion, so that we may gather strength out of weakness and suffering, and consecrate our sorrows even as He did. Enable us to bear quietly whatever hardness there may be in our lot, neither exulting in our pride, nor yielding to despondency, but always relying upon Thee. And be pleased, O Thou great Deliverer, to put an end at last to our suffering whether in a tranquil

life, or at the coming of the final peace; and when Thou callest us to give an account of our stewardship of pain, may we be found worthy of the recompense of those whose suffering was instead of work for Thee. Amen.

* * *

O Lord, look down from heaven, behold, visit, and relieve this thy servant. Look upon him with the eyes of thy mercy, give him comfort and sure confidence in thee, defend him in all danger, and keep him in perpetual peace and safety; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

* * *

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people; continue, we beseech thee, this gracious work among us. Cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience, and assist with thy blessing all who are seeking to prevent suffering and to forward thy purposes of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * *

FOR HEALING

O Lord, holy Father, by whose loving-kindness our souls and bodies are renewed; mercifully look upon this thy servant, that every cause of sickness being removed, he may be restored to soundness of health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * *

Almight God, who art the only source of health and healing, the spirit of calm and

the central peace of the universe; grant to us Thy children such a consciousness of Thy in dwelling presence, as may give us utter confidence in Thee. In all pain, and weariness, and anxiety may we throw ourselves upon Thy besetting care, that knowing ourselves fenced about by Thy loving omnipotence, we may permit Thee to give us health and strength and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* * *

CONSOLATION

O God, the Lord of life, the Conqueror of death, our help in every time of trouble, Who dost not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men; comfort us who mourn, and give us grace, in the presence of death, to worship Thee, that we may have sure hope of eternal life and be enabled to put our whole trust in Thy goodness and mercy. Amen.

* * *

Almighty God, Who art leading us through the changes of time to the rest and blessedness of eternity, be Thou near to comfort and uphold. Make us to know and feel that Thy children are precious in Thy sight, that they live evermore with Thee, and that Thy mercy endureth forever. Thankful for the life which Thou hast given us for these seasons, help us now to resign it obediently unto Thee. Assist us to return to the scenes of our daily life, to obey Thy will with patience, and to bear our trials with fortitude and hope. And when the peace of death falls upon us, may we find our perfect rest in Thee. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

O Lord, Who healest the broken-hearted and bindest up their wounds, grant Thou consolation unto the mourners; put into their hearts reverence and love for Thee, that they may serve Thee with a perfect heart, and let their latter end be peace. Amen.

* * *

O merciful Father, Who has been pleased to take unto Thyself the soul of this Thy servant, grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, that having served Thee with constancy on earth, we may be joined thereafter with Thy blessed saints in glory everlasting. Amen.

May the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and may the comfort of His loving spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

* * *

GENERAL BURIAL SERVICE

O God, great and omnipotent Judge of the living and the dead, before Whom we are all to appear after this short life to render an account of our works, let our hearts, we pray Thee, be deeply moved at this sight of death, and while we consign the body of the deceased to the earth, let us be mindful of our own frailty and mortality, that walking always in the ways of Thy Commandments, we may after our departure from this world, experience a merciful judgement and rejoice in everlasting happiness. Amen.

* * *

The Chaplain may say:

I am the resurrection and the life; he who believeth in me, although he be dead, shall

live: and everyone who liveth and believeth in me shall not die forever.

Our Father, Who art in heaven;

Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is The Kingdom, The Power and The Glory Forever, Amen.

* * *

From the gates of hell, deliver his soul,
O Lord.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

* * *

Grant, O Lord, this mercy to Thy servant departed, that he who in his desire did Thy will, may not receive the punishment of his misdeads; and that as true faith hath joined him to the company of the faithful here below, Thy mercy may make him the companion of the holy Angels in heaven, through Christ our Lord.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace, and may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

* * *

COMMITAL SERVICE

For as much as Almighty God hath received unto Himself the soul of our departed brother, we therefore tenderly commit his body to the ground in the blessed

hope that as he has borne the image of the earthly so also he shall bear the image of the heavenly.

* * *

Then the Chaplain may offer this or other appropriate prayer:

Almighty God, with Whom do live the spirits of those who depart hence in the Lord and with Whom the souls of the faithful after death are in strength and gladness, we give Thee hearty thanks for the good example of all those Thy servants who, having finished their course in faith, do now rest from their labor. And we beseech Thee that we, with all those who have finished their course in faith, may have our perfect consummation and bliss in Thy eternal and everlasting glory. Amen.

* * *

Here the Chaplain may read one or more of the psalms or prayers from the general service above or one or more of the following:

Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I shall go, and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you unto myself that where I am, you also may be. If you love me keep my commandments. He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me, and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give

unto you. Not as the world giveth do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid.

* * *

But we would not, brethern, have you ignorant concerning those who are asleep, least you should grieve, even as others who have no hope. For this corruptible body must put on incorruption, and this mortal body must put on immortality, then shall come to pass the word that is written, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethern, be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

* * *

At the grave the Chaplain may say:

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come and save you.

For the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him and His righteousness unto children's children.

May the grace, mercy, and peace of God, our Father, be with you all. Amen.

OTHER CATHOLIC PRAYERS

"O Kind and Merciful God, I ask Thy help and forgiveness. I believe in Thee, and in everything Thou hast revealed and taught."

"I believe in One God, Who will reward all who seek Him. I believe that In God there are Three Divine Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost."

"I believe in Jesus Christ—The Son of God, Who became man and died on the Cross for my salvation and happiness."

"Have mercy on me, O my God, and forgive me my sins. I am sorry, truly sorry for all of them, because I have offended Thee, my God, Who art all-good, all-holy, and all-merciful."

"Help me, O God, and have mercy on me."

* * *

OTHER PROTESTANT PRAYERS

"Lord Jesus Christ, Thou alone canst help me, therefore I come to Thee in my affliction and trouble and ask thy help.

I am weak and sinful but I come to Thee for Thou art my Refuge and Strength, and a very present Help in trouble. Thou hast said, 'Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Amen.'

"Restore me, Lord Jesus, to my health and strength, and I will serve Thee with greater zeal and I will dedicate my whole life to Thee and for Thy honor and glory.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God.

That takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon me and grant me Thy peace. Amen."

"O Lord, Lover of men, who forgivest

us our sins; Cleanse us of all that is base or selfish, and make us to be in all things Thy servants, and the messengers of Thy love. Amen."

"Grant, O Lord, that we may meet all difficulties and temptations with a steadfast heart, in the strength of Thy indwelling spirit. Amen"

"O God, the protector of all that trust in Thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy; increase and multiply upon us Thy mercy; that, Thou being our Ruler and Guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal. Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

"Grant us, O Lord to pass this day in gladness and peace, without stumbling and without stain; that, reaching the eventide victorious over all temptation, we may praise Thee, the eternal God, who art blessed, and dost govern all things, world without end. Amen."

OTHER HEBREW PRAYERS

"The breath of every living being shall bless Thy name, O Lord our God, and the spirit of all flesh shall continually glorify and exalt Thee, O our King. From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God. Beside Thee we have no King who redeems and saves, sets free and delivers, who supports and has mercy in all times of trouble and distress; yea, we have no King but Thee."

"He is God of the first and of the last, the God of all creatures, the Lord of all generations, who is extolled with many praises, and guides His world with loving-kindness and His creatures with tender mercies. The Lord slumbers not, nor sleeps; He arouses the sleepers and awakens

the slumbers; he makes the dumb to speak, releases the fettered, supports the falling, and raises up the bowed. To Thee alone we give thanks."

"Our God and God of our fathers, pardon our iniquities on this Day of atonement; blot out our transgressions and our sins and make them pass away from before Thine eyes; As it is said: 'I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake; and I will not remember thy sins.' And it is said: 'I have blotted out, as a cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a mist, thy sins; return unto Me, for I have redeemed thee.' And it is said: 'For on this day shall atonement be made for you, to cleanse you; from all your sins shall ye be clean before the Lord'."

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